

## Background

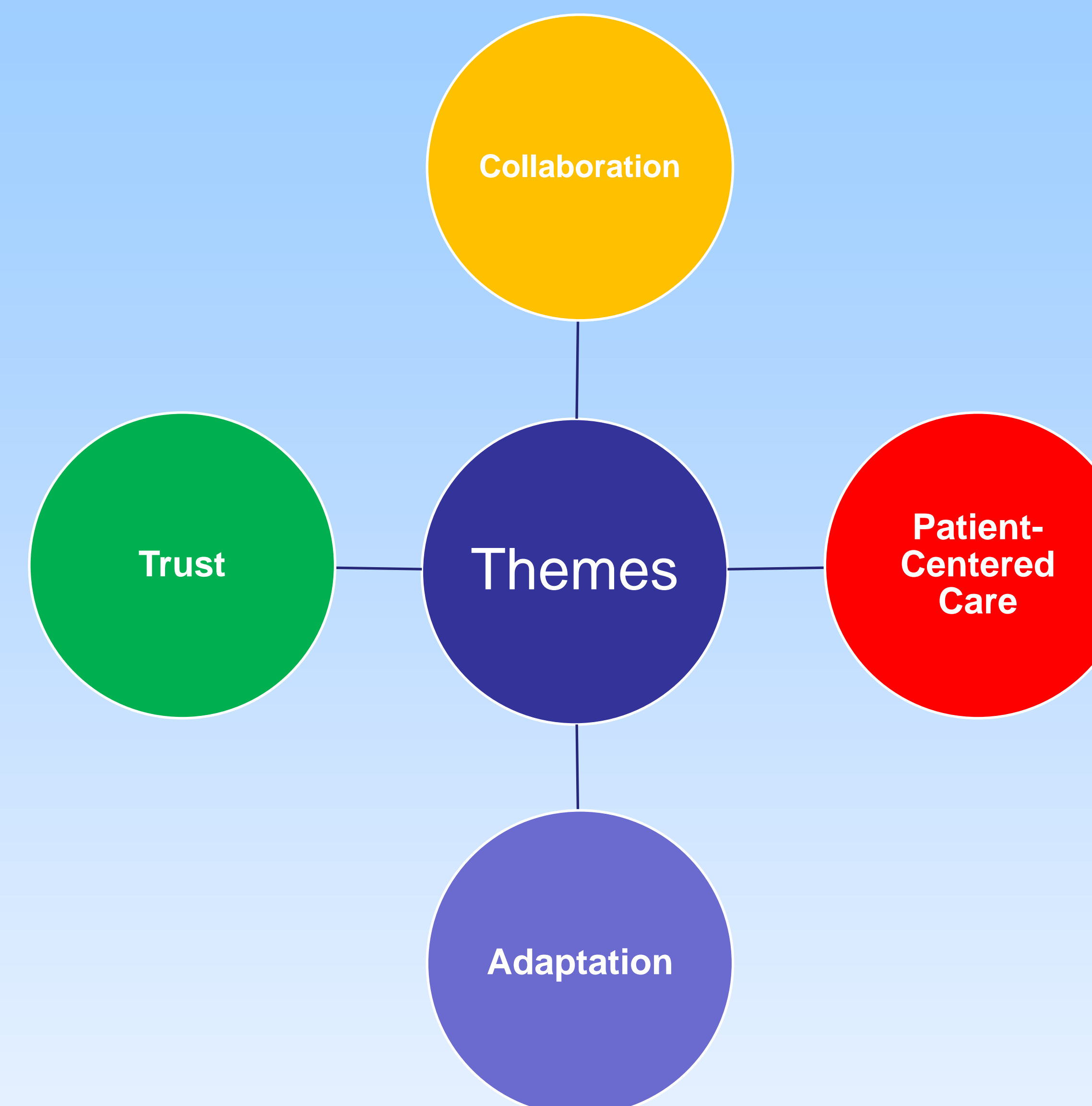
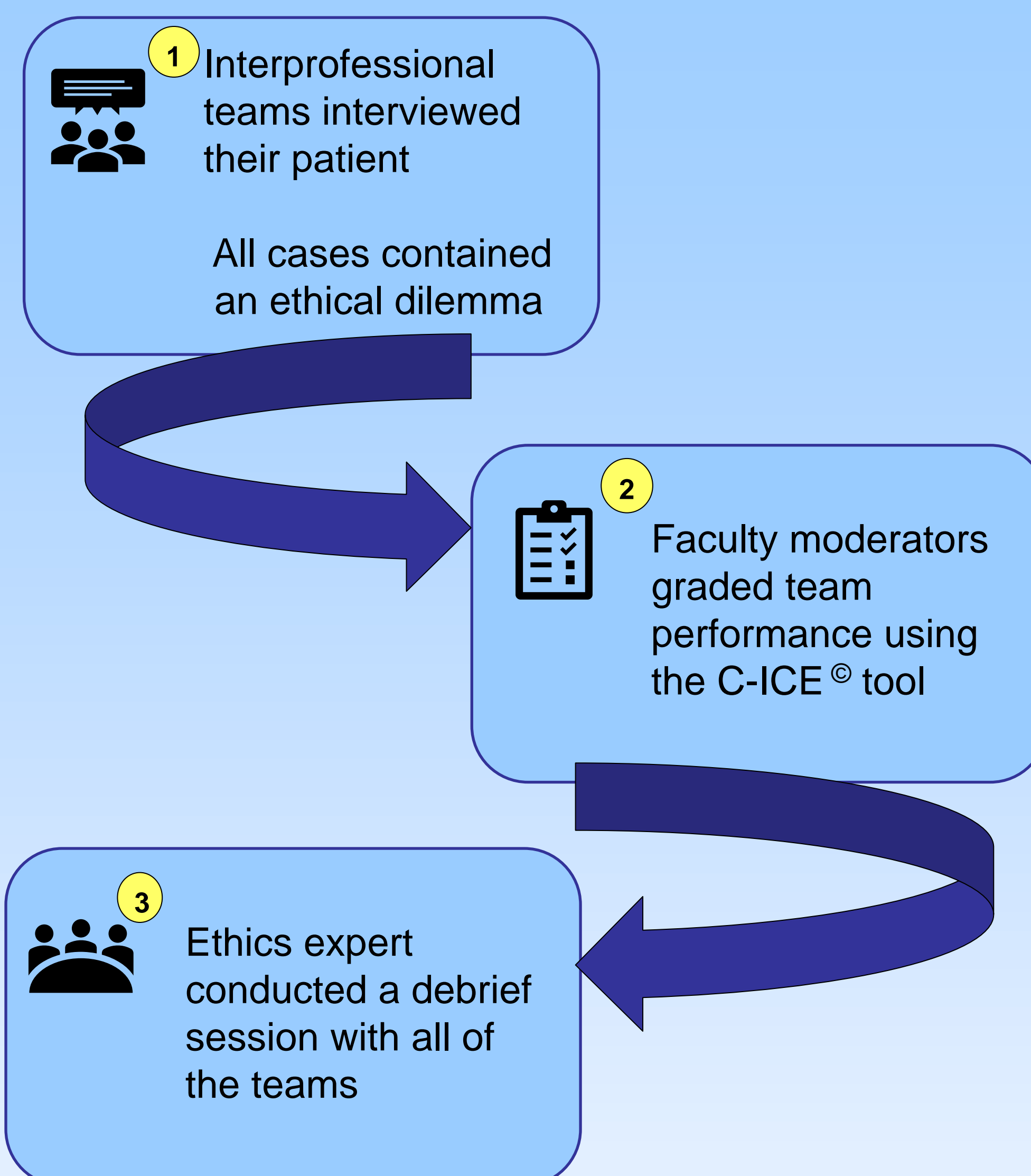
- Values and Ethics is one of the IPEC Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that healthcare teams encounter an ethical issue on a daily basis.
- Currently, there is limited literature on interprofessional learning outcomes in healthcare ethics and even fewer studies on interprofessional collaboration regarding complex ethics cases and the impact of debriefing.

## Objective

- To create and implement simulated interprofessional patient-centered care cases in which student teams collaborate to assess, discuss, and resolve complex ethical problems.

## Methodology

- A case-based ethics simulation activity between third-year pharmacy and nurse practitioner students and standardized patients was developed and evaluated. Faculty with Ethics expertise created interprofessional cases covering topics addressed in each school's curricula.<sup>2</sup>
- Using a telehealth format, 140 pharmacy students were paired with 55 nurse practitioner students and met with a standardized patient at specified times in a virtual room. Students interviewed their patient, privately discussed ethical issues, and mutually worked toward a resolution. Quantitative evaluation of student teams' participation in an interprofessional activity was assessed using the Creighton Interprofessional Collaborative Evaluation (C-ICE<sup>®</sup>) instrument.<sup>3</sup>
- The interprofessional teams met for debrief sessions to consider their interactions. Post-experience theme analysis of student survey feedback was conducted.



## Results

- The C-ICE<sup>®</sup> instrument includes a score for Values and Ethics which was analyzed. Eighty-four percent of the teams received all points for the Values and Ethics score.
- Qualitative analysis of student remarks from the debrief sessions identified four themes: the positive aspects of collaborating with healthcare teams and patients, the importance of patient-centered care while respecting patient autonomy, the ability to adapt clinical recommendations considering ethical issues, and the need for trust between healthcare partners and patients.
- Students submitted reflections post-activity. Theme analysis was performed on student comments and the most prominent themes identified were the benefit from collaborating with other healthcare professionals, the value of increased communication between healthcare partners and the patient, and the importance of patient-centered care (including the patient in team discussion and addressing concerns).

## Conclusions

- Implementation of interprofessional cases using telehealth technology is an effective way for professional schools to incorporate complex patient cases with ethical dilemmas into their curricula.
- Students reported increased interprofessional collaboration, improved communication between all members of the team, and recognized significance of patient-centered care.

## References

1. Interprofessional Education Collaborative. (2016). Core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice: 2016 update. Washington, DC: Interprofessional Education Collaborative.
2. Veatch, R., Haddad, A. and Last, E.J. (2017). Case studies in pharmacy ethics, 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
3. Iverson, L, Todd, M., Ryan-Haddad, A., Packard, K., Begley, K., Doll, J., Hawkins, K., Laughlin, A., Manz, J., & Wichman, C. (2018). The Development of an Instrument to Evaluate Interprofessional Student Team Competency. Journal of Interprofessional Care. DOI: 10.1080/13561820.2018.1447552.

## Representative Quotes

**“Different professions have different skills and insights, and each profession supports one another and improves patients’ care.”**

**“The healthcare team comes to the table with different knowledge, and we were helping our patient through a rapidly developing situation. With ethical dilemmas you have to adapt pretty quickly, rely on each other, and come to a solution.”**

**“We’re collaboratively working for our patient’s goals and we want them to be successful in their health. There has to be trust between the healthcare team, the patient and the family.”**

**“When you have an ethical situation in a family you really have to look at patient autonomy, and as a healthcare professional my responsibilities are to the patient.”**